

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 20, 2015**

The May 20, 2015 Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Tim Neville, Chair at 5:04 PM.

Present: Tim Neville, Ray Peabody, Stacy Thurston and Michelle Middleton
Invited Guests: Paul Newton, FHS Principal; Andy Longey, EHS Interim Principal; Meghann Burr, Interim Humanities Coordinator and Amy Jensen World Languages Department Chair
Audiences: None

New Business:

Travel Abroad Opportunities for High School Students – M. Burr & A. Jensen

Mrs. Burr & Mrs. Jensen reviewed travel abroad opportunities for high school students. They reviewed past trips to France and Spain. They reviewed the proposed changes for students to travel during the summer. Students would receive 40 hours of instruction. Because of the number of instructional hours students would receive, they are proposing offering .5 credits for this program.

Mr. Neville expressed concerns with the level of the language classes. Mrs. Jensen stated the Spanish students are screened and are placed in the appropriate level. Mr. Newton explained the benefits for this program.

Mr. Peabody asked about the costs and who would be responsible. Mrs. Jensen stated the students will raise the money. The teacher will go free for every 10 students that attend.

Mr. Peabody would like to offer 1.0 credit due to the amount of work. Both Mr. Neville and Mr. Newton explained the instructional hours dictate the number of credits earned.

The Curriculum Committee approved the World Language department to move forward with this plan.

Mrs. Jensen will look for similar opportunities for the French students. The Enrico Fermi and Enfield High World Languages trip in the summer of 2016 will be a combined trip.

Class Rank/Decile System and Valedictorian/Salutatorian – A. Longey & P. Newton

Mr. Newton discussed the changes for the new high school. We are proposing to eliminate class rank as we know it, move towards a decile rank. GPA's will still be calculated.

Mr. Peabody believes a student's GPA should still be listed on the report card because it motivates students. Mr. Neville gave examples of how the competition can be negative.

Mr. Newton explained how the 16 point scale is confusing and archaic. Moving to a 4.0 scale with no classes being weighted, with the exception of externally moderated courses such as AP and ECE. By removing weighted classes and the new schedule, students will take the classes they really want to take.

Mr. Peabody liked the idea and wanted to know if AP/ECE is printed on the report card. Mr. Newton stated it would be on the report card.

Mr. Longey explained that we will still calculate a student's GPA.

Mr. Newton proposed eliminating Valedictorian and salutatorian by having the students pick 2 graduation speakers.

Mr. Peabody feels if the plan is communicated quickly there will not be any problems.

Mr. Neville asked if the honor roll would be eliminated. Mr. Peabody proposed eliminating the honor roll at the elementary and middle school levels.

Mr. Newton discussed aligning standards at the high schools and the common expectations.

Mr. Neville would like to continue this discussion. Mrs. Thurston likes what is being discussed.

Mr. Neville asked about students taking AP exams. Mr. Newton stated that not all students will take AP exams.

Curriculum Committee Members agreed that they liked what we being discussed and would like to continue this discussion.

Items from the Table - None

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Middleton
Chief Academic Officer